

in the dead leaves for an insect or so ; again mounting a rail, one more imitation of the Bob-white whistle was given, then as the trill of a Red-winged Blackbird came up from the swamp beyond, he changed to a shriller *chuc-che-e-e-e-e* without a moment's hesitation. I have not heard the Mockingbird in his native haunts, but nevertheless consider such correct rendition of alien song by a wild bird truly remarkable. I have passed this wood many times since but have heard no notes other than the characteristic *mev*, from the throat of this accomplished mocker.

FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Penna.*

I have noticed several accounts lately of birds killing themselves by flying against houses, etc. I believe it was in a copy of the *Observer* that I mentioned an instance of a Bob-white doing this, and since that time a couple of other instances of the same kind have come under my notice. Last fall a lady brought me a Yellow-billed Cuckoo which she said had fallen against the floor of her porch with such force that it killed itself. When I examined it I found that the bill was broken in several places and the skull was badly bruised. She said the accident occurred in the middle of the afternoon. A few days ago while some lawyers were talking in an office, one of them said that one time while he was standing in the court room after court had adjourned, talking with another lawyer, a Bob-white flew against the window with such force that it penetrated the glass and fell on the floor of the court room. It seemed stunned for a while but soon recovered.

SIDNEY S. WILSON, *St. Joseph, Mo.*

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## EDITORIAL.

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Contrary to predictions and expectations, the present issue is late instead of early. First, because of other work that could not be put aside ; second, because of too little copy ; third, because the editor's plans to be away from home during August miscarried. Instead he will rest at home while working out some problems in moulting and song. But he will be gratified to receive contributions for the September number at any and all times until the 25th of that month.

There is not yet enough material upon the migrations of the "Black-birds" to make a report profitable. A little prompt attention to this small matter will ensure an interesting comparison.

The June census is not greatly in evidence in this issue, but would be scarcely less appropriate for the next one. Let them come in. We shall never know what our bird population is until we count at least a part of it as a basis for estimates. If I did not feel that there was great need of this sort of work *now* I would not urge it so persistently. If it could be done even approximately for every section of every county of every state of this whole country what a basis for future study and estimates it would furnish! Cannot we hope to accomplish some small part of this this year? It is not yet too late.

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### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

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- American Monthly Microscopical Journal, The.* Vol. XX, No. 6.  
*Birds and All Nature.* Vol. VI, No. 1.  
*Bird-Lore.* Vol. I, No. 3.  
*Book Reviews.* Vol. VII, No. 7.  
*Bulletins 104, 105, 106, 107, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station.*  
*Bulletin of the Cooper Ornithological Club.* Vol. I, No. 2.  
*Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club.* Vol. III, No. 2.  
*Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. Monthly Bulletin.* Vol. IV, Nos. 6, 7. Third Annual Reports, for the year ending January 31, 1899.  
*Cornell Nature-study Bulletin.* No. 1.  
*Danger of Introducing Noxious Animals and Birds,* by T. S. Palmer. Reprint from Yearbook of Department of Agriculture for 1898.  
*Fern Bulletin, The.* Vol. VII, No. 3.  
*Hummer, The.* Vol. I, No. 2.  
*Journal of Applied Microscopy.* Vol. II, Nos. 6, 7.  
*Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society.* Vol. I, No. 3.  
*Maine Sportsman.* Vol. VI, Nos. 70, 71.  
*Mineral Collector, The.* Vol. VI, No. 4.  
*Museum, The.* Vol. V, Nos. 8, 9.  
*Sportsman's Magazine.* Vol. III, Nos. 6, 7.  
*Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture for 1898.*